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Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 1 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 1 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Seventh convocation

Statement issued by the State Duma on the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes with concern the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine and the growing military threat from the Kiev authorities in the conflict area in Donbass. The centre of Kiev bore witness to yet another neo-Nazi march on 14 October 2018, when Banderites used a sacred holiday for the Orthodox faithful, the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos, to call for reprisals against Russian nationals and the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The instigators of the 2014 coup d'état in Ukraine are blatantly interfering in church and religious matters and seeking to establish a so-called united local church in Ukraine. Their aim is to destroy the genuine Orthodox Church, to legitimize Ukrainian schismatics supported by the Ukrainian State and, with their assistance, to "sanctify" the continuation of the war against Russians and Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine. The Ukrainian authorities have, in fact, embarked on a course to transform Ukraine into a base from which to fight against Russia and its people on all possible fronts and in every possible way.

The deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine are successively adopting laws against the Russian language, Russian citizens and relations with Russia. In September 2017, a law on education was adopted that almost entirely excludes education in the Russian language and in the languages of all national minorities of Ukraine from secondary schools and higher educational institutions. In January 2018, a law adopted to safeguard the State sovereignty of Ukraine over the temporarily occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions declared Russia to be an "aggressor State". In September 2018, President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine announced that he had torn up the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, in force since 1999, in order to rule out the very suggestion that there could be friendship and cooperation with Russia. Lastly, on 4 October 2018, the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a draft law to ensure that the Ukrainian language functioned as the State language and to prohibit the Russian language wherever possible. Under the draft law, even discussions about multilingualism in Ukraine are considered an attempt to overthrow the constitutional order.

While sabotaging the Minsk arrangements and claiming to have a rightful place among other European States, Ukraine continues mobilizing its troops, carrying out shootings and killings in Donbass and repeatedly resorting to terrorist acts to achieve its goals. Ukraine has become a terrorist State and the leaders of today's Ukraine have the blood of Alexander Zakharchenko and many other sons and daughters of Donbass on their hands.

These shameful acts have been supported by Western sponsors and masterminds aligned with Ukraine. The State Duma draws attention to the actions of the United States of America and other countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which, in supplying Ukraine with weapons and encouraging its anti-Russian policy,

are directly driving the Ukrainian authorities towards aggressive actions against their own people and towards inter-ethnic and sectarian conflict.

The State Duma is certain that another attempted large-scale military offensive by Ukraine in Donbass, complete with new murders and terrorists acts against its people, will meet with an appropriate response and inevitably lead to disastrous consequences. The State Duma hereby declares that the leadership of Ukraine today will bear the historical responsibility for pursuing policies leading to the severance of ties between Russia and Ukraine.

It is not too late to change course.

V. V. **Volodin**
Chair of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

Moscow

18 October 2018